First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti, MI

"Follow Me"

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
"Our voice matters. Our actions effect real change. When we utilize our collective agency for the common good, it makes a real difference."
— Rev. John C. Dorhauer

http://www.ucc.org/news_bold_initiatives_2016_ucc_core_mission_12152015

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

March 6, 2016 10:00 am

Fourth Sunday in Lent

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship. If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"In The Bulb There Is A Flower"** **433 NCH** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Donna Eyster

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Announcements Donna Eyster

Ringing the Bell

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

***Anthem** **"Let Us Break Bread Together"** FCC Choir

Call to Worship (Responsively) Donna Eyster

One: A new day has dawned, God's gift to us;
The fruits of the land are ours to enjoy.
Many: We are glad and rejoice in God's goodness;
We will share the joy of God's love.
One: Let all who are faithful offer up loud singing,
Giving thanks and sharing prayer of great power!
Many: We are glad and join the dance of life;
With the upright of heart, we rejoice and sing!

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

***Hymn** **"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"** **43 NCH**

LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament **Psalms 32:6-7** Donna Eyster

Hymn **"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"** **136 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward*

New Testament **Luke 15:1-3** Carol Hall

Sermon **"All About Me?** Carol Hall

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Carol Hall

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time.
Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Traditional Version Carol Hall

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

Our Father, our Mother who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Unison) Donna Eyster

God, whose love for us never fails, even when we wander far from home. Teach us compassion for all who are lost and confused. Make us the ambassadors of your Son, Jesus Christ, that all of your children will know your love. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

Offertory Steve McGhee

***Doxology** **"Take My Gifts"** **562 NCH**

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

Prayer of Dedication *(Unison) Donna Eyster

Thank you, God, for proclaiming our worth and allowing us to share the many gifts we have received. For in the privilege of sharing with others may we remember our gratitude for your love everlasting. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

COMMUNING WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

***Hymn of Blessing** **"Taste and See"** **86 SING**

Communion Service Carol Hall

Communion will be served by intinction in our chairs.
All are Welcome at the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving Carol Hall

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"Without Love"** **35 ES**

***Benediction (Responsively)** Carol Hall

One: Stay near to God during the week that lies ahead.
Be faithful in your times of prayer.
Many: We will seek to love as we are loved.
We will welcome, not judge, our brothers and sisters.
One: God's love and compassion will be with us each day.
Many: We will share the joy of God's love with everyone we meet!
Amen. – **Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler**

Postlude Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

Open and Affirming Covenant of
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti.

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions.
All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe and nurturing community of faith.
We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: ***www.ypsiucc.com***

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Volunteers	Today: Mar 6th	Next Sunday: 13th
Usher	Marty Kleino	Wayne Burling
Preaching	Carol Hall	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Donna Eyster	Hunter Turner
Worship Set-up	Donna Eyster	Margaret Harner
Acolyte	Hunter Turner	Wayne Burling
Friendship Time	Melanie Harner	Carol Hall
Sunday School	Melanie Harner	Anne Marie N-T

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG: On **Sunday, March 6, from 3-6 p.m.** Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is presenting **"Transgender 101".** This presentation will help our church and community continue on its journey of faith formation as an Open and Affirming (ONA) Church of the United Church of Christ (UCC). **Please reserve your space by March 1st. by calling the office at (248)651-6225.**

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Our next Council meeting will be held tomorrow March 7, 2016 at 4:45 pm. All are welcome.

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

NEW ADDRESS: Lorraine Sayles' new address; Orchard Hills Manor, 2139 Georgetown Blvd., Ann Arbor, 48105. Her phone number is the same as always (734) 483-3849.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address': Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*
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OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

KROGER FUNDRAISER: **HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!!** Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expires May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.

OUR CHURCH'S MISSIONS

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*****,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: A coalition of Open and Affirming United Church of Christ churches in Michigan. For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.

See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

MENTOR 2 YOUTH: Mentor2Youth is a non-profit organization that provides educational services and programs to at-risk youth ages 8-18 in Washtenaw County. Since its inception in 2011, Mentor2Youth has served more than 450 youth by taking a wholistic approach towards their well-being. Our mission is to ensure these youth have a promising future through educating and empowering them to excel in life, academics and work. We envision developing a school-to-career pipeline for at-risk youth as our organization continues to become more sustainable and expands over the next five years.

Contact Alex Goldsmith (alexandriansnowden@gmail.com) or visit their website (http://www.mentor2youth.com) for more information.

Today's Cover:

http://www.ucc.org/news_bold_initiatives_2016_ucc_core_mission_12152015

Resolving to be bold in 2016, UCC leadership plans to amplify public witness of core mission

December 15, 2015
Written by **Connie Larkman**

The United Church of Christ national leadership, in partnership with several UCC conferences, will be amplifying the denomination's bold public voice in 2016 around a dozen issues central to the church's core mission.

Part of one of General Minister and President John C. Dorhauer's initiatives, UCC mission teams will brainstorm around issues of race, refugees, immigration, climate change, voting rights, mass incarceration, the marginalization of women, and ecumenical solidarity to develop creative ways of sharing/communicating the UCC witness with the wider church and the secular world through social media and media events.

"Climate change is the greatest moral challenge humanity has ever faced," said the Rev. Jim Antal, conference minister and president of the UCC Massachusetts Conference. "The changes we must make require moral leadership — and it's unimaginable that we can make those changes without churches, synagogues and mosques leading the way. In the years ahead, the relevance of church will be measured by our capacity to engage a handful of issues. Climate change must be on that list."

Read more here: http://www.ucc.org/news_bold_initiatives_2016_ucc_core_mission_12152015